

# Discover 100-Year-Old Well Today In Business Area

## Waitt & Bond Begins Placing Machinery In Wellbrock Building

Engineers of the Waitt and Bond company began installing machinery in the Wellbrock building, 52 North Main street, on Tuesday. The company is making preparations to begin the manufacture of "Blackstone" cigars in this city.

Meanwhile, excavation work is going forward on the Modad property, 54 North Main street, and some 14 or 15 bids have been received at the Chamber of Commerce office for alterations to the Wellbrock and Modad structures. A heating plant for the two buildings is to be set up on the Modad plot, and the Chamber of Commerce is to award contracts for electrical installations, plumbing, heating, roof repairs and certain structural additions.

A Chamber of Commerce committee will meet some time tomorrow to review the bids submitted. The committee is made up of James F. Walsh, Morgan H. Patten, Walter J. Bartholomay and John M. Cramer. Messrs Walsh, Patten and Bartholomay represent the board of directors and Mr. Cramer the industrial committee.

It is expected that the cigar company will spend about \$150,000 in locating here. The Chamber will expend a part of the \$10,000 industrial development fund which it is raising in making certain alterations and improvements for the company, while the remainder of the fund will be used in seeking still other industries for Carbondale.

## Modern Power Shovel Unearths Relic Of City's Early Days

An old well, the history of which dates back more than a century, was unearthed on the Modad property, 54 North Main street, this morning while excavations were being made for the heating plant which is to service the new Waitt and Bond cigar factory here.

Diameter of the well, which is circular in shape, is between three and one-half and four feet. The supply of water in it appears to be plentiful, the water being reached at a level about 12 to 15 feet below the surface of the excavation.

Builder of the house which the well served before Carbondale had a central water supply system was William Wurts, nephew of the Wurts Brothers of Philadelphia who first saw the commercial possibilities of the hard coal deposits here. They developed mines and took the first steps to ward the organization of the Delaware and Hudson company. The Wurts family was prominent in the company's affairs for many years.

William Wurts, an attorney, built the present Modad building at some time between 1835 and 1840. It was square in shape, built along the same lines as the structure now occupied by the McGranahan funeral home, and that which houses the Brennan service station. All three buildings have been altered somewhat through the years.

At the time when Mr. Wurts built his home, all Carbondalians depended upon wells for their water supply. In a letter to The Carbondale Leader, written by Henry Wilson of Honesdale in 1901, a description of the Carbondale of the era is given. Mr. Wilson told of having come to Carbondale in the spring of 1839, when his father removed here from Susquehanna.

"I remember my eager curiosity while preparing for removal, to see 'stone coal' burning in a grate; the domestic hearth previously having been warmed by the old fashioned wood fire," Mr. Wilson wrote.

Continuing, he said of Carbondale that "The village extended, in a straggling way, over considerable space. It was divided, with somewhat indefinite boundaries, into 'up-town,' 'down-town,' 'across the river,' 'Dundaff road' 'Shanty Hill,' 'Welsh Hill,' 'No. 1 Hill,' and the 'Turnpike'—the latter including the turnpike road down the valley, from the foot of 'Welsh Hill' to the 'White Bridge' about a mile below. On the east side of the Lackawanna, between the foot of No. 1 Hill and the foot of Welsh Hill, were two streets, parallel with the river: 'Front street,' now Main street, and 'Back Street', now Church street, with the present cross streets then nameless, unless on the D. & H. maps of the village."

Mr. Wilson related that the side walks were merely strips of the road, with posts set up to denote the line of demarcation from the road. The public square, now Memorial park, was overrun with weeds and was utilized to some extent as a general dumping ground.

"On the side of the square west of Front street was a 'liberty pole' then deemed an essential part of every village equipment. Still farther west, on the edge of the River stood a large barn, used by the Delaware and Hudson company. Between the liberty pole and the barn was a clear space, and on this it was customary to fire a large iron cannon, cast at Benjamin's foundry, to celebrate holidays and to punctuate the speeches at political meetings. The public square was better known as the 'parade ground,' the militia trainings of that day being held there."

The Wurts dwelling subsequently was sold to Addison Durfee, and later passed into the hands of Samuel Williams, when the latter retired from the management of the Hotel American.